

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 INT-05
/084 W

-----122203 040736Z /21

R 020730Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6560
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10412

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN CG
SUBJ: FRENCH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ZAIRIAN MINERALS MARKETING CONTRACT

REF: KINSHASA MEMCON DATED SEPT 6, 1977

1. REF MEMCON REPORTED THAT ZAIRIAN STATE-OWNED MINERALS MARKETING FRIM, SOZACOM, INTENDS TO ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARKETING MINERAL PRODUCTS. CURRENTLY ALL SOZACOM PRODUCTS ARE MARKETED BY SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE (SGB), BUT SGB'S MARKETING CONTRACT WITH SOZACOM WILL EXPIRE IN JAN 1978.

2. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S BROTHER, OLIVIER GISCARD D'ESTAING, IS CURRENTLY VISITING ZAIRE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY A KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE THAT PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS TO ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A MARKETING CONTRACT BETWEEN SOZACOM AND FRENCH INTERESTS TO REPLACE THAT OF SGM.

3. COMMENT: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN 1975 FRENCH INTERESTS ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN MARKETING CONTRACT WITH SOZACOM BUT LOST OUT
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TO SGM, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF HIGH-LEVEL BELGIAN PRESSURES AND BECAUS E
SGM ALSO HAS CONTRACT WITH STATE-OWNED MINING FIRM, GECAMINES, WHEREBY IT SUPPLIES EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL AND OTHER SERVICES WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ON SHORT NOTICE FROM OTHER SOURCES. RENEWED COMPETITION BETWEEN FRENCH AND BELGIAN INTERESTS FOR LUCRATIVE SOZACOM MARKETING CONTRACT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY AGGREGATE

SUSPICION WIDELY HELD AMONG BELGIANS HERE THAT FRENCH ARE SEEKING TO
TAKE OVER THEIR PRIMARY POLITICAL/ECONOMIC POSITION IN ZAIRE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARKETS, MINERALS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA10412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770406-0673
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711105/aaaadmig.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e2c8af0e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 6
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 403780
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ZAIRIAN MINERALS MARKETING CONTRACT
TAGS: EMIN, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e2c8af0e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009